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ABSTRACT

Papers on parliamentary libraries which were presented at the 1985 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries--Example: Federal Republic of Germany" (Wolfgang Dietz, West Germany); (2) "Cooperative Development in Action: Towards an Australian Parliamentary Information Network" (R. J. N. Bannenberg, Australia); (3) "Relationships of Research in National Institutions and Parliamentary Research" (Osamu Hayashi, Japan); (4) "Parliamentary Research Services: Improving the Relationship between Public and Private Research" (Dean N. Clay, Canada); (5) "Relationship between the European Parliament Library, the Council of Europe Library, and between the National Parliamentary Libraries of the Member States" (Dermot Englefield, United Kingdom); (6) "The Role of a Parliament Library in Documentation and Popularization of Its Parliament's History" (Andrzej Gwizdz, Poland); and (7) "Legislative Library of Quebec: Relationship among Canadian Legislative Libraries" (Jacques Premont, Canada). (THC)

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# Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries

## - Example: Federal Republic of Germany -

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## Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries
## - Example: Federal Republic of Germany -

The Federal Republic of Germany is divided into 11 states of which three are city-states: Hamburg, Bremen and Berlin, whereby Berlin, however, takes on special importance because of its status as an Allied protectorate in the four-power Allied commission. Originally, these states evolved as a result of the legal reconstruction after the Second World War. Accompanying the establishment of these states was also the creation of the various democratic institutions and corresponding subordinate agencies which function in executing the various duties, and among them, the parliamentary libraries. These parliamentary libraries were not usually able to build upon older collections, but had to be completely newly developed. Even the Library of the German Federal Parliament, the largest parliamentary library of the Federal Republic of Germany, had to be established during that time. There was no possibility to incorporate and build upon the holdings of its predecessor, the earlier Reichstagsbibliothek. In this respect, the situation in the FRG differed considerably from the situations in other Western Democratic countries, such as the USA, Canada, even Australia, where the parliamentary libraries of the individual countries (and states) could look back on a tradition which was often more than 100 years old and provided access to valuable older collections.

While the Library of the German Federal Parliament developed very quickly into a library of scientific and research status, the structuring of Legislative Libraries in the West German states progressed on the whole only very slowly. One of the reasons for this was in part due to the differences in the specific tasks and responsibilities of these libraries. Several of them confine themselves to literature provision for their delegates and parliamentary administrations; other perceive their responsibility additionally as a special library which makes its collections available to the public and opens its doors to outside users who depend on official publications and other materials which are difficult to obtain and rarely available in other libraries. The smallest library holds 10.000 works and employs 2 librarians. In contrast to this, the Library of the German Federal Parliament has

holdings of more than 850.000 volumes and a staff of 85, not including the parliamentary research services and other additional informational and documentational services for the German Federal Parliament.

Just as the collection and staff size of these libraries differ, the services they render are also varied. They extend from the administration of a relatively small collection and the answering of simple enquiries to full provision of the parliamentary needs for all necessary information and preparation of comprehensive, important documentation.

These very different tasks can in part be traced back to the fact that even today the parliamentary administration underestimate the significance of a well-functioning information system with a capable, highly efficient library at its center. On the basis of this background, it will be clear why, in the Federal Republic of Germany, cooperation among Legislative Libraries has only developed in certain partial areas and a clearer conception for cooperation of all parliamentary libraries is missing.

The first attempts to promote the development of Legislative Libraries and to create meaningful cooperation between them was already made in 1957 with the founding of the Association of Parliamentary and Administrative Libraries of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1977, a special working group of the Legislative Libraries was founded within this Association. Under the leadership of the Library of the German Federal Parliament, the libraries of the eleven state parliaments and the Federal Senate are represented. In the course of the last years, this working group has concerned itself primarily with the collection and classification of official publications, with exchange relationships between Legislative Libraries, as well as with active informational possibilities, such as the compilation of new acquisitions lists, etc. In 1983, the Working Group prepared a paper on the "Tasks and Organisation of a State Legislative Library" with the purpose of providing the administrations of the State parliaments with an orientational helping tool for uniform development of Legislative Libraries. In the future, one of the most significant tasks of this Working Group will be to assume responsibility for coordinating efforts to introduce automated support of the library work routines and to examine all possibilities for cooperation in achieving faster and more effective information provision for the parliaments.

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Independently from this Working Group, the following concrete measures have been taken over the last few years in order to strengthen the co-operation among the Legislative Libraries of the Federal Republic of Germany, to help them coordinate their work and to offer better information provision to the parliaments and respective users:

1. In 1976 an agreement between the state Legislative Libraries and the Library of the German Federal Parliament was made whereby the state Legislative Libraries have the possibility of obtaining complete catalog cards containing both descriptive and subject classification information upon request from the Library of the German Federal Parliament for monographs, periodicals and articles from journals on a subscription basis or confined to the selected article listings from 1.400 relevant journals (ca. 24.000 titles per annum).

   This service of the Library of the German Federal Parliament was initially welcomed with great enthusiasm, although shortly thereafter, it was followed by a sober reconsideration of the situation. Because of lack of personnel, no state Legislative Library was able to regularly file the catalog cards in a separate catalog especially set up for this purpose. Even with the limitation to the non-monographic literatur - journal articles - the necessary staff was not available. Consequently today only two of these libraries receive a set of title cards for journal articles.

   More importantly, in my view, is, however, the experience and new insights we have gained through this attempt: about 60 % of the literature collected, cataloged and classified by the Library of the German Federal Parliament is not available in the state Legislative Libraries, but references to these items in the title catalogs were also not desired. The reason for this was that experience had shown that the acquisition of literature not already in the respective library took too long and the staff placed greater value on limiting the acquisition of literature not already in the library. Also important was the realisation that the subject headings assigned to the literature were directly related to the inquiries and needs of the Library of the German Federal Parliament and correspondingly not sufficiently specific for the needs of the state parliaments.

2. A good example of cooperation between the legislative bodies of a country is the cooperation in classifying the stenographic reports

and printed materials of the Federal and State parliaments as has been practiced for many years in the Federal Republic. The initiative for this cooperation originated with the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Federal Parliament and Senate with the goal of standardizing the classification of the Stenographic Reports and Printed Materials of the Federal and state governments using the respective subject and speakers indexes. For this purpose, a working group of the parliamentary administrations of the Federal and state governments was founded in 1972 under the somewhat misleading name PARLIS (= Parliamentary Information System). The name is misleading, because the activities of the working group are confined solely to the cataloging of the parliamentary materials mentioned. By no means is it concerned with the further development of a comprehensive parliamentary information system which includes the parliamentary research assistance services and all other informational areas such as library activities, archives, and public relations in the broadest sense.

As a prerequisite for uniform subject classification of the parliamentary materials, the German Federal Parliament and the German Senate, together with the state parliaments developed a documentational system called the "Documentation and Informational System for Parliamentary Materials" (= DIP) which was introduced in April 1978 together with the Parliamentary Thesaurus (PARTHES) for the Index of Subjects and Speakers of the Stenographic Reports and Printed Materials of the German Federal Parliament and Senate. This System is obligatory for all parliamentaries which are participating in the project by means of a declaration of the presidents of the legislative bodies at the Federal and State levels.

Similar to the usefulness of the title cards in the state Legislative Libraries which I noted above, it quickly became evident that regarding the use of PARTHES, the various needs for subject-oriented classification of parliamentaria required that the special demands of the state parliaments be taken into consideration more carefully. This took place in 1980 through the creation of a network between the PARTHES of the Federal Parliament and Senate and a "user Thesaurus" ANTHES, which was developed according to the structural pattern and regulations of PARTHES but took the special

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needs of the state parliaments participating in the network into consideration. In this way, the use of standardized terminology for the same (parliamentary) items is guaranteed and the informational value of the subject index is greatly increased. But at this point I have to confine myself to these few examples. Upon request, I can provide you with a list of articles which elaborate on these problems.

3. The basis for more comprehensive cooperation among Legislative Libraries is currently being created through the development of a project which is most likely unique up to this point. The Library of the German Federal Parliament is currently working together within the context of a pilote project with other libraries of the Supreme Federal Ministries in Bonn to develop a library network, the goal of which is to provide a union catalog giving author, title and subject access to all literature available in the libraries of the Federal Ministries. Because the "Standard Rules for Alphabetical Cataloging (RAK)" have not been satisfactory for descriptive cataloging of official publications and other so-called "gray literature", accommodations have been made to develop the so-called "RAK-PB" (RAK for Application in Parliamentary and Administrative Libraries) which help provide standardization for cataloging and classifying these particular publications.

   Subject cataloging of these items is based on the Thesaurus of the Library of the German Federal Parliament. Because of the various levels of classification within the individual subject areas in the libraries of the specific ministries, the possibility of additional expansion to include more specific subject headings according to the needs of the participating libraries was included. A standing committee for subject classification under the leadership of the Library of the German Federal Parliament will also decide which Thesaurus terms should be made obligatory for all libraries and which terms can be incorporated as additional classification elements for the various ministerial libraries.

   The network should begin operation in 1986. We then hope that the libraries of the Supreme Federal Ministries will classify and input data on the official publications which are produced within or under the auspices of their ministries immediately after publication. At a later date, it should be decided whether

or not the state Legislative Libraries can also be included in the network inasmuch as they could also contribute classification data on the official publications of their various state governments directly after publication to the central catalog. As passive users, these libraries would also have the possibility of being able to search in the central title and subject catalogs using a terminal connection in their library.

With the input of the data on official publications immediately after their publication by the respective ministerial libraries, we hope to achieve considerable acceleration of their bibliographical access. This should be of primary adventage to the parliamentary and governmental libraries which are most dependent on this type of official materials.

Whether further meaningful and intensified cooperation between Legislative Libraries will be successful in the future depends primarily on whether the responsibility for the development of a parliamentary information system will be successfully assumed by the Legislative Libraries. Only the Legislative Libraries will be able to deal with the demands of the future on the basis of their previous duties and responsibilities and their experience as classical information providers, as well as on the basis of their maturing relationships to other information-providing institutions. Thus, issues of cooperation among these libraries will gain increasingly in significance in the coming months and years, and the individual libraries will have to meet this challenge.

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# Co-Operative Development in Action: Towards An Australian Parliamentary Information Network

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# Co-Operative Development in Action: Towards An Australian Parliamentary Information Network

In retrospect, it is surprising to realise that a little more than fifteen years ago the workings of the various Australian Parliaments were as little known to one another as if they were operating in a foreign country. It is not the general ambit of parliamentary procedure which is referred to here, although the local variations of the basic Westminster System were not widely chronicled; nor does 'workings' for the purpose of this paper cover the fluctuating fortunes of party politics, though even these received only the briefest of coverage in the contemporary press of jurisdictions other than that in which the action took place.

By the workings of the parliaments is meant the administration, or if the term is preferred, the bureaucratic organisation and functioning of parliament. To be sure this was (and perhaps remains) a somewhat esoteric and not particularly glamorous topic. Given the general lack of coverage on the more visible and 'saleable' subjects encompassing the parliamentary sphere, it is little wonder that the workings of parliament remained unpublicised. In many ways it was a typical demand and supply situation, with very little interest in what was being achieved or attempted elsewhere except for the personal curiosity of individuals.

The Parliamentary Librarians can be seen as one small component of this overall scenario which also encompasses Presiding Officers, Clerks and Table Officers, Parliamentary Reporters and other administrators. The situation has changed remarkably within

the last fifteen years to the current one where there is a very keen appreciation by the various practitioners of what is taking place in the various sections of the parliaments, and an active interest in fostering closer understanding.

Several factors can be identified as contributing to this change which has resulted in a concomitant growth in literature on the topic. Although not voluminous, it is significant compared to the former drought, and now reaches a wider audience than the actual participants. Just one example of this is the existence of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group which holds bi-annual meetings and workshops to discuss topics relevant to the process of parliament.

Among the more important factors which have promoted this new interest the following are listed briefly:

(i) Nationwide television networks (commercial and government funded) which have put politics - local, national and overseas - into the living room, promoting in turn associated coverage in the audio and print media.

(ii) Financial factors:- a rise generally in community affluence, bigger government budgets leading in turn to higher spending by the parliaments and expansion of members and staff. Also growth of Committees and new buildings.

(iii) Associated with the above, a greater interest in the mechanics of parliament by the press, academics, (there was a tremendous increase in numbers of Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education, many of which had significant faculty interests in politics) and members of parliament themselves.

(iv) Better and more uniform educational standards for officers of the parliaments reflecting in part the general community.

(v) Technological advances including STD telephone linkage, telex, telefascimilie transmission, faster travel, computers and microprocessors, which has made communication between the parliaments much simpler and of greater relevance.

(vi) Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the formal conferences of parliamentary personnel which have become an important part of parliamentary administration in finding solutions to problems common to the participants.

The last mentioned factor is worth considering in some detail, since it reflects a real and perceptible change in the relationship between parliamentary officials which has had a considerable impact in particular on the libraries.

1968 saw the inauguration of what was to become the annual meetings of Presiding Officers and Clerks. This was to no small extent due to the representations and continuing efforts of the Queensland Speaker Sir David Nicholson. The meeting was an obvious success and did much to acquaint the participants of the universality of some of the problems confronting them and the various approaches employed to overcome them. Successive meetings have taken place annually at different venues within Australia and in neighbouring Pacific countries demonstrating the continuing interest of participants.

One of the papers given at this first meeting was presented by Harold White, who had recently been made National Librarian after many years as Parliamentary Librarian. His subject, "The

Development of Legislative Research Services in the Parliamentary Library" was received with much interest by the Conference, with many State presiding officers showing their interest in promoting better services, if not a Research Section, in their respective institutions. This would prove to be a relevant factor to the libraries within a further three years, when a visit by the New South Wales Library Committee to Canberra to assess the services offered there to Members prompted the then Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian, Mr Les Moore to suggest to his Committee that a conference be held in Canberra the following year "to discuss mutual problems and the scope for co-operative solutions".(1) The Conference was held in May 1972 and heralded the beginning of an entirely new era for the parliamentary libraries.

As has been previously mentioned the Parliamentary Libraries had largely tended to be as isolationist as the other branches of the parliamentary administration until at least the mid 1960s. Their basic purpose was and is the provision of information, as required, to their Members. Other functions, however commendable, are peripheral to this purpose: the library is judged on the calibre of the service it provides as a source of information, frequently in competition within and without the parliamentary precincts.

Hence the aim of the Librarian must be to satisfy the requirements of individual Parliamentarians - usually concise, balanced, factual, accurate information, delivered promptly, with often minimal lead time. This often results in the juggling of competing factors *viz* length vs. balance; accuracy vs. speed; comprehensibility vs. complexity of subject.

Prior to 1965 there had been some degree of contact and co-operation between the libraries but this had been of a desultory nature and rarely amounted to more than a very occasional enquiry

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(1) Conference of Australia's Parliamentary Librarians, 1st, Canberra, 1982. Proceedings, p.2.

by mail. Two happenings set the stage for a new era of inter-relationships, one internal, the other external.

In 1965 Russell Cope, the New South Wales Parliamentary Librarian showed commendable initiative and enterprise in producing two publications which drew upon a number of the libraries for contributions. These booklets, Library Services to the Legislature: A Symposium and Government Documents in Australia: Papers on their Production, Use and Treatment both published in 1965, did much to evolve an ethos of parliamentary librarianship in Australia, and certainly created an awareness among his colleagues of the need for a re-assessment of the services they did and did not offer. The publication of The Vital Adjunct: Parliamentary Libraries and their Role in Australia (1969) further reinforced this approach and the same year saw the issue of a reference monograph Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances in Australia: A Comparative Table which clearly demonstrated the usefulness of co-operative efforts to all contributors of data.

This activity by Dr Cope played a significant part in the re-assessment by the New South Wales Parliament in 1968 of the services which Members should expect from their library, which in turn set the scene for the 1972 meeting.

Further factors which influenced the attitudes of librarians at this time were the setting up of the Parliamentary Research Service in Canberra (1966) and the publication of a series of articles on Parliamentary libraries in The Parliamentarian (1968-69)[2] as well

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(2) PALMER, John "Parliamentary Libraries I: Basic and Essential Holdings", The Parliamentarian, Vol.IL No.3, July 1968, p.151.
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as the Barker and Rush monograph on the information needs of Members of Parliament (1970).[3]

The external factor was the formation of AACOBS which listed among its Council members a representative of the parliamentary libraries. The first representative was Stuart Gunthorpe of Queensland and initial arrangements involved each library contributing to the travel expenses involved in attending meetings. Although this representation which continued until 1980, with several of the librarians serving in rotation, did not result in significant benefits to the parliamentary libraries, it certainly served to focus their interest on common problems and channelled thoughts into ideas of a co-operative as well as an individual approach to them.

The 1972 Conference of Australia's Parliamentary Librarians was attended by representatives of all Australian parliamentary libraries demonstrating the degree of interest which the preceding seven years of gradual involvement had generated. One of the central themes was the opportunity for future co-operation, and it was unanimously agreed that closer liason would be of benefit to all. As a means of ensuring this it was decided that biennial Conferences would be the arrangement normally but that the next meeting should take place in twelve months to consolidate on the inaugural meeting.[4]

Subsequent Conferences were held in Sydney (1973), Melbourne (1975) and Brisbane (1977) with the benefits of the closer association becoming apparent not only with each meeting but in the freer interchange of views and informal consultations between the librarians in between conferences. In 1975, following the

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(3) BARKER, Anthony and RUSH, Michael "The Member of Parliament and His Information", Lond., Allen & Unwin, 1970.

(4) The Parliamentary Chief Reporters also saw the benefit to be gained from closer relations and informed discussion among their colleagues and held their inaugural meeting in January 1974, subsequently meeting annually.

3rd Conference an informal means of communicating matters of common interest to all librarians was initiated by adopting the PLANS (Parliamentary Librarians of Australasia News Service) newsletter which identified communications by source of issuing library and number. The acronym was stamped on letters meant for the personal attention of the Librarian to ensure that correspondence quickly reached its intended target.

In 1979 a minor setback occurred when the meeting intended for Perth had to be abandoned due to unforseen circumstances. With the prospect of several Parliamentary Librarians from North America and Europe visiting Australia en route to the IFLA Conference in Manila in 1980, Harold Weir of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library arranged for the 5th Conference to be held in Canberra in August 1980.

This conference represented something of a watershed, in that it was instrumental in launching the topic which has done perhaps more than any other, to ensure closer co-operation and contact between the libraries - the establishment of a computer based information network.

Papers on the network proposal were given by representatives from the Commonwealth and Queensland libraries.(5) From the ensuing debate it was decided that a representative from Queensland and the Commonwealth undertake preliminary investigations of network possibilities, reporting back via a telephone conference in September 1980. As a result of this a Thesaurus Working Party was created to investigate compilation of a list of subject headings for use by the libraries, and its first meeting took place in Brisbane in June 1981 in conjunction with a meeting of the Librarians aimed at establishing a basis for an information network, and procedures for implementing it if such proved feasible.

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(5) BRUDENALL, M.J. A Proposal for a Network of the Libraries of the Parliaments of Australia. Fifth Conference of Australian Parliamentary Librarians, Canberra, 1980. Proceedings, pp.65-74.
ALEMSON, H. and BANNENBERG, R.J.N. A Computer-based Information Network for Australian Parliamentary Libraries. Ibid., pp.31-64.

The relevant sections of the document resulting from these meetings were as follows:

"Whilst recognising the independence of each Parliament, it is clear that the advantages to be drawn from co-operative action between Australia's Parliamentary Libraries are such as to warrant agreement in principle to the establishment of a resource sharing network between these libraries.

In order to:-

(a) improve information services to Parliamentarians,
(b) increase productivity, and
(c) make more effective use of available resources by the implementation and utilisation of existing and new technology,

the Parliamentary Librarians seek the endorsement of the Chairman of their respective Library Committees for the following proposals:-

(1) Without derogation from the authority of each Library to determine its own priorities for automation, it is recognised that certain material held by all Libraries should be indexed via machine readable systems in each Library to enable the development of a co-operative data base.

These include specifically:-

(a) Periodical literature;
(b) Hansard extracts;
(c) Short title legislation index, including progress of Bills and proposed proclamation dates;
(d) Parliamentary Paper monographs;
(e) Appropriate audio-visual material.

(2) The Librarians agree that a computer based information network should be implemented over a period of time, with exchange of data initially taking place by means of magnetic storage peripherals. Later, this may be extended to direct on-line linkage, perhaps taking advantage of satellite communication.

(4) Working Parties, consisting of a representative from each Library should be established on a continuing basis, to undertake further investigation and development of a number of technical aspects essential to the implementation of the network, including in particular:-

(a) Common data format:
(b) Appropriate software and hardware;
(c) Common thesaurus of subject terms appropriate to Australian requirements.

It is recommended that the necessary finance be provided to enable such meetings to take place at least twice a year."

In the meanwhile, the Presiding Officers had discussed the proposed network with enthusiasm and in July 1981 President Grimwade of the Victorian Legislative Council hosted a conference on the use of Computers in Parliamentary Libraries(6) which was attended by most Library Committee Chairmen and their respective Librarians.

The objectives and suggested means of implementation hammered out at the Brisbane meeting were presented to the Chairmen and were accepted in principle by them. It was acknowledged that a number of technological difficulties remained and that finance

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(6) Presiding Officers Conference on Computers in Parliamentary Libraries. Melbourne, 17 July 1981.

would continue to be a problem even if these could be overcome. Nevertheless the first step towards a network - compilation of a uniform thesaurus for common use in indexing non-book materials, was continued. The Librarians agreed that Queensland would continue to provide the basic input, manpower and equipment, with editorial assistance from the representatives from the Commonwealth, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria who had attended the Brisbane meeting. Working party members met on three occasions to monitor progress and provide advice on those terms considered essential to its adoption by the various libraries. In 1983 when the burden of the project began to have an effect on Queensland's operations, the Commonwealth generously provided funds for three months work by a librarian temporarily employed for this purpose. This commitment was later extended by a further two months but following the appointment of this person to a vacant position in the Queensland Library, the Commonwealth agreed to re-deploy the funds which would have been expended on this to other aspects of thesaurus production. The thesaurus was substantially completed in May 1984, and soon afterwards was put into use by the New South Wales library.

Meanwhile, the Automation Sub-Committee set up at the 1982 Conference, to report on possible avenues towards implementing the network and monitor relevant developments in automation by each library, continued to confer as much as pressure of normal parliamentary work and financial constraints permitted.

Because there had been considerable changes in the composition of Library Committees of most Australian Parliaments since 1981 and even the Presiding Officers chairing them, it was decided to request a special meeting with all Presiding Officers to establish anew the degree of support for an Australian-wide computer network to link the Parliaments. This took place in June 1984, and support was re-affirmed to the extent that it was agreed to set up an Inter-Parliamentary Network Committee, with a representative from each parliament, to establish the basis of such a proposal, and make recommendations as to the necessary monies required for

it to function. In effect much of the Committee's terms of reference mirrored the earlier guidelines established in 1981, but the emphasis was placed on the proposed network being a parliament to parliament link rather than library to library. The Committee was to report back to the Presiding Officers and APLA.

When the Committee met in February 1985 each parliament, save for the Commonwealth was a member of the library staff, and in the latter case representation came jointly from the Library and the Assembly. Each representative spoke on the stage of automated systems in the relevant legislature, what formal bodies existed to plan and review future initiatives, and what had been planned to date. Agreement was reached on the desirability of having specified parliamentary data available on-line to participants, but there was a divergence in opinions as to what kind of a network would be involved and, given this uncertainty, the appropriate software and hardware to implement it. A further complication was the stated position of the Commonwealth that they would be unable to participate in any external network until they had established their own internal network which was expected to be in the period 1988-89.

Due to these factors, and the difficulty in arriving at common communication standards and operating protocols in the absence of committment by the various parliaments to specific hardware and software, the most that could be arrived at was an agreement to keep one another fully acquainted with proposed purchases, and to ensure that when purchase was contemplated, due attention was given to the communication facilities available on machinery running in the other parliaments.

It was recommended that a further meeting take place after Presiding Officers had discussed the Committee's report and subsequently to a report by the New South Wales Public Service Board on automating certain functions in that parliament. The difficulties encountered by the Committee in reaching a clear cut

solution agreeable to all parties came as no surprise to Librarians, who had explored many of these matters over the preceding three years. The problems are not insuperable but are nonetheless very real and complex, and can be roughly classified into two groups - political and technological.

(1) Political

There are several strands to this head which covers three tiers of the administrative structure.

(a) Library. It is important that within the proposed network each library is able to preserve its individuality, its independence and its right to self determination. This is not only true at the level of inter-relationship of the library administrators, but also has ramifications in the sphere of inter-state rivalries and inter-party ideological differences. Each library must be able to function as a discrete self-contained unit whilst at the same time benefitting by having access to the data contributed to the common pool by the other participants. A further difficulty lies in the difference in staff sizes and funding of the various participants which range from four persons in one library to over one hundred and fifty in the Commonwealth (with similar disparity in budgets). The means of communication of data both for input and retrieval must be at a level affordable by each participant, even if the amount of data contributed differs dramatically, and it should be sufficiently powerful to utilise the network effectively once it becomes established.

(b) Parliamentary status. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Library is a separate administrative department of its Parliament with considerable freedom to

allocate the substantial funding available to it. This is not the case with the State Parliamentary Libraries generally almost all of which come under the financial administration of a House Officer, usually the Clerk. It is not usual for a State Parliamentary Library to have access direct to the funds necessary to buy the equipment and software that a shared information network involves; nor has there been a history of involvement in automated data processing for their day to day operations to foster the confidence and familiarity borne from accepted use of such. Certainly steps have been taken over the past two years to enable these libraries to access external commercial data bases, and in fact this was one of the recommendations of the 1981 working party which has subsequently been adopted by the various Library Committees.

To return to the crux of the matter, it is difficult for the smaller libraries to gain favourable consideration for a major project such as this, and it is crucial that the Library Committees, and the Presiding Officers who chair them, throw their full weight behind convincing those with the ultimate authority of the need for the network if they are so convinced. This of course brings us to the third political factor -

(c) Government Approval and Funding. Brief mention has already been made of the perceived diffidence with which various independent political entities may view a shared data base. While these concerns can, I believe, be demonstrated to be without tenable foundation and at the

worst greatly exaggerated, they remain a real factor to overcome. The needs of the parliamentary library (really the members) are not likely to be seen as a major item of concern when balanced against extra nurses, teachers, policemen etcetera, so it is going to require compelling well reasoned arguments as well as the political skills of Library Committee members to convince the Executive that the necessary expenditure is both justified and worthwhile.

The three major constraints referred to so far are not of course the only ones. In an era when the National Library is struggling to construct an Australian Bibliographic Network and the lawyers are in the process of establishing a Computerised Legal Information Retrieval System there will be quite a few who will query the need for the Parliamentary Libraries to set up a separate scheme. These doubts can of course be answered, and it should be understood that what is being sought is not a competing network but a complementary one having access to the information stored by both whilst still having its own unique material.

(2) Technological

It is not within the technical competence of the author to provide any sort of in-depth analysis of the technological difficulties posed in the implementation of the database network. It is possible to indicate in broad terms some of the basic problems likely to be encountered. These can be conveniently grouped into three main headings:

(a) Software. The number of bibliograhic information

retrieval systems including those offering full text capability, available commercially continues to grow, and two major reasons underlie this situation. Firstly, some are tied to a particular computer or can not be run on all, or, only with extensive and expensive modification on machines other than the particular one for which the programmes were written. Secondly, already existing software has usually been designed with a specific function in mind and may need extensive modification to fulfill the requirements of a particular organisation. A third factor which is relevant to potential users is the up front cost of available software and the annual maintenance/enhancement fees payable to the vendor. The Automation Committee has, through its various members, sought to keep abreast of what suitable software is available to fulfill the internal requirements of the participating libraries as well as facilitating the operation of the proposed network. With the proliferation of available packages and the constant changes in brands and models of machinery on which to run them, it is not surprising that in the limited free time each member is able to devote to such pursuits no decision has been arrived at. The Commonwealth Parliament after commissioning an extensive study of the STAIRS, STATUS, BASIC and ASSASSIN packages with a view to finding which most suited its purpose, has implemented a Hansard Database Project which uses STATUS on an ICL Bureau. Queensland has concentrated on the development of a highly sophisticated transportable information retrieval system

(PARL-AIRS) covering not only full text retrieval and records management but designed also to fulfill all library functions, especially in a networking environment. Other parliaments are involved in assessment of suitable software for their own purposes, within a climate more favourable to adoption of some standard system for all, but this process is likely to take a further twelve to twenty-four months.

(b) Hardware. The usual procedure carried out when a decision is made to automate a function is to draw up specifications of the essential requirements which must be fulfilled; select an existing package which meets all or most of these requirements; or alternatively create the necessary software, and then select suitable machinery on which to run it. Given that no suitable software has been decided on for the proposed network, decisions on hardware are obviously premature, but it is important to know the size, capability and cost of equipment capable of supporting the scheme. This in turn may point to the degree of compatability of various machines and the choice of purchase or leasing as opposed to use of commercial bureaux or existing government facilities. At the present time all of the seven proposed network participants are using dial-up terminals to access commercial data bases in Australia and overseas. This experience has proved a useful introduction to automated information retrieval for those with no prior use of EDP and has given some

indication of the order of costs which may be incurred in a network. Apart from these micro-computers, which are also used for word processing, some use of larger machines takes place. Queensland has used an IBM mini-computer since 1976, when it established its own in-house data base using the AIRS-QASAR System developed by the library. At present it holds approximately 200,000 records using a 256K 128Mb IBM/34. It is anticipated that by the end of 1985 the new system, PARL-AIRS, will be transferred from the development machine - an IBM 4381 owned by the State Government Computer Centre, to a DEC VAX 750 located in the Premier's Department with the possibility of the Parliament acquiring a similar machine in 1986-87 to fully automate current manual procedures in other sections as well as for library requirements. The Commonwealth Library acquired a Honeywell mini-computer in 1982 as did other departments of that Parliament and also utilises a number of micro-processors to automate certain administrative procedures within the library. The advent of an Information Systems Inter-departmental Committee to co-ordinate D.P. requirements generally, and in particular for the new Parliament House to be occupied in 1988 has resulted in a detailed survey of needs and strategic plans to implement them. The Hansard Database Pilot Project which provides on-line full text retrieval capabilities for Senate and House of Representatives debates is continuing development and tenders have been let for

DEC word processing equipment in the offices of Senators and Members. The Research Section of the Library has also recently upgraded their VAX to a 750 machine principally for the use of the Statistics Section.

(c) Communications. This is the area which has provided obstacles to effective networking in the past, and yet which seems likely to pose much less of a problem in the future. Two aspects are involved: telecommunication linkages using leased or dial-up lines, and communication capabilities of the particular equipment in use. The first poses no real problems in that the provision of data communication channels by Telecom, the government run carrier, is a normal commercial transaction available for standard fixed fees with increasing use of Datel and Austpac by business, commerce and government. Costs will determine whether a real time on-line facility or a batch processing operation can be justified in view of the perceived needs. Communication between computers produced by different manufacturers, or even between different models from the same manufacturer has for many years been a major stumbling block to the inception and growth of networks whether they be geographically dispersed or not. Although certain manufacturers were able to dictate the adoption of some "standards" (such as 3270, 2780 and 3780 emulations or R232 for standard PC links) by sheer weight in the market place, in effect producers

tended to go their different ways with further complications such as synchronous or asynchronous pipelines, duplex or half duplex mode, EPCDIC or ASCII characters, or differing combinations of these which tended to preclude free communication of data.

Over the past five years some degree of rationalisation has taken place and the ubiquitous "black box" has appeared in a variety of forms to act as a translater. A number of manufacturers have specifically sought to incorporate the facility to utilise major protocols in their machines and in addition to front end software packages available to overcome communication problems the acceptance of SNA, DECNET and ETHERNET systems will promote network linkage. One system which appears to have been used with considerable success in this regard is the i-Net which has been employed in Canada to link different libraries to data bases on a variety of machinery. The Austpac X23 and X25 packet switching communications concept with the provision of "gateways" will obviously impact ease of network to network communication and the creation of such large countrywide systems as the various banking establishments and commercial videotext services will help to overcome many technical difficulties which have arisen in the past.

The evolution of these communication devices provides the only effective alternative to network participants unable to use identical (or common) software and hardware. Given

the need for autonomy for each of the parliamentary libraries, it may well prove to be the only practicable means of ensuring that the network which is being proposed can be implemented.

Although the concept of the computer network is potentially the most important co-operative venture likely to involve the parliamentary libraries for the forseeable future, it is not the only evidence of the fruitful results which closer co-operation has brought.

Subsequent to the 1980 Conference another major topic brought a commonality of interests to the fore which has helped to link the libraries. The Commonwealth Copyright Act provisions imposed upon the parliamentary libraries and their clientele an unacceptable burden in the normal course of operations, because essentially, the provision of information to members is a service predicated upon the Member not knowing in advance the sources of the information he is requesting. Another feature diametrically opposed to the credo of confidentiality, which is a basic tenet of parliamentary librarianship, was the provision that any agent of any author could inspect records of photocopying to see if that particular author's work had been copied. The Libraries found the provisions both intolerable and unworkable and embarked upon a united approach to draw this to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Following extensive correspondence and telephone communication, a submission was presented to the Attorney-General's Department which demonstrated the effect that compliance would have on parliamentary library operations and the impact it would have on each individual member. Meetings with Departmental Officers took place in August 1981 and September 1983 at which these points were vigorously pursued, and in 1984 amending legislation was enacted <u>inter alia</u> absolving parliamentary

libraries from most provisions of the Act where copying from printed and audio-visual material was done for Members of Parliament acting in the course of their duty.

As a result of these and other matters which ten years of increasingly more frequent and personal communication between the librarians and their respective libraries has brought to light, it was decided at the 1982 Conference in Adelaide that a formal association was not only desirable but necessary.

Over the next twelve months the constitution of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Australasia (New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are members) was drafted and agreed to, coming into operation in January 1984. Consequently the librarians, and to some extent the libraries, now have a body to express a common viewpoint and to represent them in negotiations such as the copyright submissions previously referred to. The librarians now find that as for the Clerks and the Reporters, it is necessary for them to meet annually such is the increase in matters vitally affecting their operations. The biennial Conferences, which are more formal meetings attended by Library Committee Members, and where papers are presented for subsequent publication, continue to be held (the 1986 meeting is to be in Perth, Western Australia) with the annual general meeting being incorporated into the agenda.

As a result of the accelerated tempo of communication between the libraries, and the need to render it more effective, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library in November 1982 arranged for telefacsimile machines to be installed in Sydney and Brisbane on loan with the remaining States being similarly connected in 1983-84. This has resulted in an effective and most appreciated document interchange network between all centres which has proved of inestimable value not only for urgent communication of data between libraries but also as a service to country based parliamentarians requiring instant transmission of documents from their home electorates. The service has made it possible to negotiate resource sharing between the libraries and has proved itself sufficiently for the State libraries to take over

the leasing costs from the Commonwealth. This is as good an example as any of the practical co-operation which the libraries are now implementing to provide new and improved services to their clientele; a philosophy which it is hoped will be further illustrated by the computer based information network.

To sum up, the last fifteen years has seen a tremendous change in the services offered by the parliamentary libraries individually, and in their awareness of and dealings with each other. The good will, understanding and co-operation which has been engendered since the first formal meeting of 1972 continues to grow strongly despite the differences in size and services, and the particular problems endemic to the politically diverse institutions which they serve. It is always difficult to accurately predict what the future will bring, but given the progress made over the past two decades, there seems to be every reason to expect that within five years the libraries will all be active participants in a sophisticated resource sharing network which will provide parliamentarians with greatly enriched sources of information. How effectively this information is used, and to what purpose is of course up to the Members themselves to decide.

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# Relationships of Research in National Institutions and Parliamentary Research

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# Relationships of Research in National Institutions and Parliamentary Research

It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity of talking about Japanese experience on relationships of research in national institutions and parliamentary research.

It shall be appropriate to start my talk with the state of the art of national institutions in Japan, in order to discuss today's theme strictly. However, although we have efficient directories of research and development institutions involved in science and technology, neither directory nor statistics are available on national institutions of our common understanding at this workshop including those specialized in social science which has an essential meaning in parliamentary research. One thing I can mention is that a directory entitled "Directory of Special Libraries" is annually published in Japan, and it covers all Japanese special libraries and information centers attached to the national or local government agencies, research or academic institutions, and private enterprises. I consider parental organizations of these libraries and centers are candidates of national institutions of our understanding, though all of them are not necessarily such national institutions. The 1985 edition of the Directory contains 2,150 special libraries and information centers, as well as their parental bodies. So many institutions, so many specialized spheres, ranging from education to medicine, from agriculture to national defense. But, rather than dwelling on the detailed features of the individual institutions, please let me simply say here that the activities of national institutions are as extensive, energetic, and prolific in Japan as in other industrialized countries, and that this tendency is obviously growing year by year.

Now, the focal point of my presentation today is on the following questions: how the parliamentary research body acquires the results, mainly published results, of activities of those varied national institutions, and how it makes full use of these results in serving the Diet, or Japanese legislature. One of the frameworks of answers to these questions is set by the fact that our Research and Legislative Reference Department, Japanese parliamentary research body, is a subdivision of the NDL, or the National Diet Library, the sole national library in Japan.

Behind the establishment of our Department within the NDL, there existed a Japanese philosophy on parliamentary research or library service. The new Japanese constitution of 1946 distinguished the Diet from the Imperial Diet in pre-war time: newly established Diet is the highest organ of state power, while the Imperial Diet merely gave the consent to the Emperor who formally exercised the legislative power. The delegates who assembled in the Diet believed that the tragedy of militarism before and during the war had resulted from the monopoly of information by bureaucrats, and that it was absolutely necessary for the Diet of a democratic government to have its own information source. Both houses then enacted the Diet Library Law, aiming at the establishment of a large-scale parliamentary library. When the matter came to the preparation for the foundation, however, it was found that Japan lacked the essential bibliographic services which were provided by a modern national library, and that the Diet Library could never hope to function with full effectiveness as long as such services were lacking. They in consequence came to the recognition that the library to be established should be "not merely a Diet Library, but a National Diet Library."

Upon request of the Diet made through the Supreme commander for the Allied Powers, that the library mission would be sent from the U.S. to Japan, Mr. Verner W. Clapp, Deputy Librarian of the Library of Congress, and Mr. Charles H. Brown, Director of the Orient Division of the American Library Association, visited Japan in 1948. They admitted the Japanese recognition and gave us extremely beneficial recommendations based on the U.S. experiences. When the National Diet Library thus came to existence, a parliamentary library the Diet had intended at the earliest stage was eventually embodied in our Research and Legislative Reference Department. But why was it Research and Legislative Reference Department? To tell the truth, the Department was named modelling after the U.S. Legislative Reference Service then. But Mr. Clapp and Mr. Brown emphasized the importance of research function to future parliamentary library, and recommended to add the word research to the organization's name. They stressed that the Japanese legislative reference body would go beyond the U.S. counterpart by this name. It is absolutely fair to say, however, that the U.S. Legislative Reference Service, which was changed to the Congressional Research Service in 1970, has conversely gone far away beyond our reach.

Anyway, the Japanese parliamentary research body was thus founded on the basis of a national library. At present, the NDL has 846 staff members, of which 152 are working for our Department. The staff are, in principle, recruited by open competitive examination by the NDL, and transferred within the Library basically according to the right man in the right place rule. Because of the practice of transfer, even analysts of the Department are not assured to remain an analyst until retirement. This might be contradictory to the specialty of research work. But on the other hand, transfer guarantees staff members for equal opportunity of promotion, the divisions of the Library for revitalization, and the Library as a whole for unity. This is an aspect of Japanese life-time employment system.

Back to the today's theme, the basic framework in which research in national institutions is made use of for parliamentary research is that their publications are acquired, processed, and circulated by the staff of the divisions of the Library, and thus become the information source of research by analysts of our Department. This flow of information is basically secured by the compulsory deposit system, the management of which is one of the fundamental functions of a modern national library. This also implies that the deposit system is considered in Japan not only from the viewpoint of compiling national bibliography, but from that of information source of parliamentary research.

As this section is Parliamentary Library Section, and not National Library Section, I would not intend a detailed account of the Japanese deposit system. But, to put it briefly, any publisher, whether public or private, of 500 copies or more is required to furnish the NDL with a certain number of copies -- in the case of private publisher, one copy of his or her publication. The resources acquired through the deposit system belong primarily to the NDL's holdings. But, when three or more copies are deposited, the third one is sent to our Department and added to the Department's collection. Particularly, many of the publications of public institutions come to the Department through this channel.

The Department has been in this manner greatly benefited from the deposit system of the NDL. However, several points still remain to be solved. First, in Japan, unlike in the U.S., deposit is not the prerequisite for holding copyright, and therefore we have no effective means of having publishers deposit their publications other than relying on their understanding and cooperative attitude. Problem is that there are still many who are unaware of the obligation of deposit provided by law, especially among new

and local publishers. Second, bureaucrats are not always active depositors. This is partially because their publications are often not clearly distinguished from internal print materials for staff use in executive agencies. In Japan, under parliamentary government system, government bills play an important role in legislative process, and executive ministries tend to monopolize information of state affairs. So, promoting deposit of executive ministries' publications is an essential task for us to do.

I would like to turn now to the topic of Japanese branch library system, which also has been considerably contributing to the promotion of deposit of government publications. Branch library system is a system under which the Supreme Court Library and the libraries of the executive ministries, which are usually special libraries with unique and important collections, function as branch libraries of the NDL, while maintaining their own independence. This system was formed on the recommendation of Mr. Clapp and Mr. Brown of the U.S. library mission. They tried to realize their idea corresponding to the concept of library network of these days.

Much has been expected of this system. Its most important function at present is to serve as a channel between the NDL and the ministerial agencies; from the NDL to the ministerial agencies, as a channel of lending the NDL's library resources, and from the ministerial agencies to the NDL, as a channel of collecting their publications to be deposited in the NDL. Moreover, the NDL and branch libraries also cooperate in an union catalogue, reference service, staff training, and so on. Recently, dial-up terminals were installed in some of branch libraries for utilizing the NDL's database on an experimental basis. As for an on-line network system between the legislative and executive agencies, I suppose the Federal Republic of Germany, from which Mr. Diez is attending, is in an advantageous position over us. But I also expect that a full-scale network system based on this branch library system will sooner or later be set up in Japan as well.

I have been talking about what our Department's position as an internal organization within the NDL implies, in terms of acquiring published research results of national institutions. Now let me tell you about the direct relationships of national institutions and our Department.

Recent tendency shows that our Department is increasing its relative independence from the NDL collections, in terms of information source. The Department acquires materials for research in four ways. In the first place, the Department receives from the Library materials, which the Library acquires by means of deposit or international exchange. Other ways are the Department's direct acquisitions; purchase, gift, and exchange. As for exchange, the Department exchanges periodicals with some universities and research institutions, the number of the relative bodies is currently not so large though.

Let me give you some statistical data. Figure 1 at your hand specifies how the Department acquired materials last year. This shows that the percentage of acquisition through the Library is high as to Japanese books, while that of gifts is relatively high as to Japanese periodicals. To tell the truth, the proportion of gifts is considerably high as to Japanese books as well, since the statistics do not include gifts accepted directly by individual analysts through their personal channels built up by their everyday service. The fact that the Department is made many gifts of materials indicates the Department's, as well as its analysts', extensive contact with outside organizations and individuals.

Because the Department was established as a subdivision of a national library, it consequently, unlike the CRS, serves the executive as

well as judicial branches of the government, and even the general public, so far as the service to the Diet is not disturbed. The number of inquiries from the bodies and individuals other than the Diet and Diet Members is as small as less than 5% of the number of the total inquiries handled by the Department now. However, even bureaucrats of the executive branch often depend on us, particularly for knowledge of foreign systems and state of things, such as pension systems in European countries and mail vote procedure in the U.S. The Department is expected to give the information they need by making full use of the foreign material collection of the NDL. In this connection, the Diet, which is empiricist, also wants to learn from the experiences in foreign countries, and therefore, the proportion of foreign research is as high in our service to the Diet as around 40% of the total inquiries.

Our Department also sends regularly its publications to the executive ministries through respective branch libraries, and to the prefectural libraries and major university libraries; publications such as "Reference," "Foreign Legislation," and "General Index to the Diet Debates." For further information of these publications, would you please see the pamphlet on the outline of our Department at your hand. It may be fair to say that these publications are viewed highly as important information sources by the organizations which receive them. And these services by the Department actually resulted in the converse flow of the materials from many bodies, including national institutions, into the Department in the form of gift and exchange.

Now, figure 2 at your hand shows how heavily we depend upon the Department's own collections in carrying out research upon request. This is a case study of the Department's Labor Section made by its analyst, and tells us that the percentage of the Department's collections as research source has increased from 56.6% in 1967 to 72.6% in 1981. Especially, a growth of the use of the Department's periodical collection stands out. In the NDL, an annex is now under construction, and after its completion next year, the Library's periodical collections are planned to be moved to the annex. It is accordingly predictable that the Department will distinctively increase dependence on its own collections in near future, this does not mean a lowering of the importance of the Library's collections as the last resort for the Department's research service to the Diet though.

In concluding my talk, let me tell you what the results of researches in national institutions mean to parliamentary research by the Department after all. The legislation of the Japanese Diet is quite different from that of the U.S. Congress. Japanese political system is, like that of most countries of attendants here, parliamentary government. This means that the government bills are important both in number and effect in legislative process. Therefore, one of the central functions of the Diet is to review, ask questions of, and criticize government bills set before the Diet. So, the Diet is naturally in need of various data, viewpoints, and analyses helpful to it in performing this function effectively, including those different from those on which the bill is based. And it is national institutions that provide the Diet with them. On the other hand, national institutions, except when they are bodies of executive agencies, have no means to have their research results consulted in making legislation or considering state policies. Therefore, to gather these research results as extensively as possible, and to transfer them to the Diet are parts of major function and responsibility of parliamentary research by the Department.

Such transfer includes an arrangement, summarization, and processing research results in the form suitable for the Diet's use. This duty is fulfilled with an individual research paper upon request, as well as a report

contained in a Department's periodical publication, for examples. Another example is "Statistics Handbook," yearbook published by the Department, in which we edit statistical data announced by the government agencies or other institutions in the form appropriate for the Diet Member's use.

Anyway, the first step for such assistances to the Diet shall be to collect information concerning research results of national institutions as broadly and quickly as possible. In Japan, we coexist with other Diet supporting bodies, such as Secretariates and Legislative Bureaus of both Houses, and committee staff of each standing committee. Our Department's strong linkage with the work and research of national institutions could be said to be an important element which significantly differentiates our services to the Diet from those of other Diet supporting agencies. And to promote such linkage, I consider that we have to develop especially an automated network system with those institutions hereafter.

FIGURE 1: HOW THE DEPARTMENT ACQUIRES MATERIALS (1984)

| | Japanese Books | Foreign Books | Japanese Periodicals | Japanese Newspapers | Other News Materials(J) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Purchase | 1,053(17.4%) | 346(85.9%) | 261(25.5%) | 30(39.0%) | 20(48.8%) |
| Gift | 719(11.9%) | --- | 346(33.7%) | 38(49.4%) | 14(34.1%) |
| Exchange | --- | --- | 85( 8.3%) | --- | 2( 4.9%) |
| From NDL | 4,291(70.8%) | 57(14.1%) | 333(32.5%) | 9(11.6%) | 5(12.2%) |
| TOTAL | 6,063(100.0) | 403(100.0) | 1,025(100.0) | 77(100.0) | 41(100.0) |

FIGURE 2: RESEARCH SOURCE (CASE STUDY OF LABOR SECTION)

| | 1967 | 1981 |
|---|---|---|
| Department's Books | 28.9% | 34.7% |
| Department's Periodicals | 27.7% | 38.3% |
| NDL's Books | 27.7% | 16.3% |
| NDL's Periodicals | 10.4% | 7.1% |
| Statutes & Parliamentary Documents | 5.2% | 3.6% |
| TOTAL | 100.0% | 100.0% |

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# Parliamentary Research Services: Improving the Relationship Between Public and Private Research

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# PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICES

## IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESEARCH

### INTRODUCTION

Today's legislator needs help. Confronted with a bewildering array of complicated and interrelated issues, lawmakers require increasingly sophisticated supporting systems to aid in decision making.

Information is vital but simply gaining access to more of it is not sufficient -- many legislators complain that they are already inundated. Selectivity and analysis are increasingly the keys to effectiveness. Is the information relevant? How should it be interpreted? How well does it mesh with what is already on hand? Is the information adequate to make decisions? No single person can perform such assessments across the spectrum of issues which must be considered in governing well today.

It is natural for legislative libraries, as suppliers of information, to consider how the parliamentarian's effectiveness can be promoted. Libraries are necessarily becoming skilled at filtering information, to provide an appropriate product to a progressively more demanding consumer. Parliamentary research units, which carry the process an important step further by analyzing information, have demonstrated their value but this service has not been extended without some problems and there remain many opportunities for improvement.

Apart from the United States, whose Congressional supporting agencies are unmatched in their capabilities, Canada through its Library of Parliament has been among the most active of those countries extending nonpartisan research services to federal legislators. The Library's 20-year experience in this regard may consequently be of interest to others. In particular this paper considers how a legislative research service can interact with other organizations to boost its effectiveness.

One should not assume that offers of such cooperation will be automatically forthcoming from other quarters; the need for research as an integral part of the legislative process may not be broadly recognized. At the "Canada Tomorrow Conference" of late 1983, whose theme was preparedness for technological change, the impact that accelerating technological development would have on the ability of lawmakers to function effectively went virtually unremarked by the 700 delegates from all sectors and regions of Canada.

## RESEARCH IN CANADA'S LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

More than 50 professionally-trained people now serve Canada's federal lawmakers through the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament. This Branch was established in 1965 and has evolved in both size and sophistication. Four separate Divisions -- Economics, Law and Government, Political and Social Affairs, Science and Technology -- were created in 1974 and today handle the challenging demands of almost 390 individual parliamentarians, some 40 standing, special and joint committees of the two Houses of

Parliament, and numerous parliamentary delegations. Research Branch support for parliamentary committees has grown especially rapidly in recent years, to the point where such work now occupies approximately 40 per cent of the time of the professional staff.

Although the benefits of this service are increasingly acknowledged, relatively little has been said about the problems which the Research Branch continues to encounter.

(a) Visibility

Outside the parliamentary precinct, the Research Branch is not well known. Other research organizations may be reluctant to cooperate with an unfamiliar group; such relationships are in any case typically established over a period of time. And greater visibility can be a mixed blessing -- a widely-circulated committee report on energy, drafted by Research Branch specialists, triggered the loss of three experienced researchers to other employment.

(b) Credibility

Many professional people are surprised to learn of a policy research unit within a library, staffed by highly-trained economists, lawyers, natural scientists and social scientists. They question the continuing effectiveness of specialists so removed from the mainstream of more typical research activity, and may consequently see little benefit in associating with the Research Branch. Because most of our output does not circulate in the public domain, being prepared on a confidential basis for

individual parliamentarians and committees, the outsider may have little tangible evidence of the Branch's abilities.

(c) Professional Currency

Related to the previous point, there is indeed a problem for some specialists to remain current in their fields. This is particularly true for natural scientists and engineers who must make special efforts to keep abreast of new developments. Attending professional meetings and conferences has been a traditional means of meeting this need but the Library of Parliament has also experimented with new approaches, whose success will be described later.

(d) Limited Numbers

Fifty-plus professionals in one organization is a substantial collection of talent; nonetheless these research officers must be prepared to handle virtually any question that Canada's parliamentarians can raise (and our lawmakers have proven quite ingenious in this regard). While research officers often become known to their clientele as specialists in particular subjects, and may be heavily involved at times in detailed research, they may also be called upon with little notice to work on the broadest range of topics. Shifting mental gears between the specialist and the generalist roles under the pressure of imminent deadlines and competing demands on one's time is not an easy task.

(e) Unpredictability

While topical issues generate a substantial part of the workload of the Research Branch, there are numerous requests which seem to

come out of nowhere, often with no warning. If these unusual requests also feature short deadlines, they can seriously disrupt a researcher's workplan and be a considerable source of frustration.

This incomplete but representative list of problems is not unexpected, given the nature of the organization and the working environment. There are means, however, by which a parliamentary research unit can improve its service while at the same time addressing these difficulties, with some trade-offs that must be carefully weighed. Time, for example, is no less a consideration for researchers than it is for legislators.

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The principal intent of cooperating with other research organizations, public or private, is to amplify the capabilities of the parliamentary research service. However, the cooperating agencies must also see benefits in the relationship if it is to endure. What forms has this involvement taken at the Library of Parliament?

A decade ago, the Congressional Research Service and the Library exchanged four staff members for a one-month period, a librarian and an economist coming to Ottawa to study our operations while a librarian and a scientist travelled to Washington to learn more about CRS. From our perspective this exchange was highly beneficial, one result being a new service to Canada's federal legislators: the Library's Current Issue Review system -- a file of short, topical and regularly-updated research reports available to all Members of Parliament -- was inspired by the Issue Brief service of CRS.

An unusual opportunity arose recently through our work for the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This Committee had recommended that a federal coordinating office be established for each major new energy project undertaken on Crown land. The Government adopted this proposal and in its first application, the Norman Wells Pipeline Project, requested a one-year secondment of the Research Branch specialist in northern development and public administration who had assisted the Senate Committee. This researcher served in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, as Public and Governmental Affairs Advisor on the oil pipeline project, not only contributing her expertise to the federal coordinating office but also gaining the first-hand experience of helping to implement a recommendation which she had helped the Senate Committee in formulating.

This same research officer had previously served a six-week secondment to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife, assisting its Public Accounts Committee with a new financial information system. Such opportunities to gain practical experience in government affairs are invaluable to the researcher who normally works at the level of policy review.

In 1981, Canada's Department of National Defence invited the Library of Parliament to nominate a candidate for the National Defence College, the country's senior military institute. The research officer who participated in the ten-month course, the first staff member from Parliament Hill to do so, travelled to all parts of Canada and in 16 foreign countries

as part of the program of strategic studies. This unrivalled opportunity to examine international problems, development and strategic concerns on site substantially expanded the knowledge and experience which this individual can offer to parliament. As this research officer has returned each year to lecture at the College, the Library provides some return to that institution for a remarkable educational experience.

The Library is frequently visited by individuals and groups from abroad and from Canada's provincial legislative libraries and research units who wish to study our operations. Some of these visitors remain for extended periods and a significant number are from developing countries intending to introduce or augment legislative library services.

The Library of Parliament supports some professional organizations by joining as an institutional member. To illustrate, the Library is a member of the Social Science Federation of Canada and of the Association for the Advancement of Science in Canada. The Parliamentary Librarian is a Director of the former group; a member of the Research Branch is Treasurer of the latter. Such points of contact help maintain awareness within the Library with what is happening generally in Canadian professional life. Professional associations have in turn asked for help in establishing better communications with parliamentarians.

At another level, the Canadian Parliamentary Review -- a publication founded in 1978 "to inform Canadian legislators about the activities of their federal and provincial branches and to promote the study of and respect for parliamentary institutions in Canada" -- draws its editor from the Research Branch and research officers are frequent contributors.

On the educational front, the Library has encouraged staff to pursue higher degrees and take English or French language training. The nature and extent of the support depends upon the individual circumstances; on occasion it has extended to periods of leave at full pay. In turn, staff lecture from time to time at various Canadian universities and Research Branch staff have taught courses at local colleges and universities.

In general the Parliamentary Library encourages conference presentations, lecturing, public speaking and similar activities for evident reasons: the professional image of the institution is enhanced and staff members polish communications and other skills of value to the job. These activities provide a change of pace from the regular work, foster a broader network of professional contacts (an important factor in the effectiveness of the Research Branch), and provide others with a unique perspective on the operation of Canada's Parliament. Not least important, researchers can test their thinking on other audiences.

The list of examples could be extended but the important point is what advantages accrue to the parties involved. The Research Branch has been restricted in its growth in recent years -- it needs to boost performance from limited resources because Parliament's demands on the service are mounting. Cooperation with other organizations amplifies what the Branch can offer to parliamentarians. Research staff can tap a larger pool of expertise and thought and, in the process, maintain a better awareness of what is happening in their respective fields of interest. The principal cost is the time invested to establish and sustain these contacts, a cost which is becoming harder to bear.

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On the other side, cooperating institutions and individuals have a vehicle for interacting with the legislative process. Some may be called as witnesses before parliamentary committees. Current research may be funneled through researchers who can bring important new results to the attention of the appropriate Member of Parliament or committee. In effect the Research Branch can operate as a clearinghouse for research and policy analysis, linking the legislative system to the research function elsewhere. Many organizations welcome this opportunity to reach decision-makers via the Research Branch. The Science Council of Canada, for example, automatically provides the Science and Technology Division with all of its publications and regularly invites research officers to participate in its seminars and study groups; and the Division is a repository for all reports on radioactive waste management produced by Atomic Energy of Canada. Having an institution which can assess the relevance of current research to the needs of Parliament and then direct that research to the appropriate point in the legislative system is valuable to all concerned.

## THE FUTURE: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

It would be comforting to conclude that the future for parliamentary research in Canada appears promising and untroubled. Life is never that certain, particularly in the political domain. A number of agencies with which the Research Branch regularly cooperates have come upon hard times. The federal Ministry of State for Science and Technology was recently reduced by more than half in manpower; the Science Council of

Canada has just been ordered to cut its staff by more than 50 per cent. The Division of Energy in Canada's National Research Council, which has been a steady source of information and advice to the Branch and which has provided numerous expert witnesses for committee hearings, is being closed down and its functions largely abandoned by the Federal Government. Inevitably these actions elsewhere affect our service.

In the past the Research Branch has maintained contacts at many levels in other government departments. What requires strengthening are links to the private sector, to professional societies, to academia, to Canada's limited number of "think tanks" or policy research bodies, and to sister organizations abroad. Jointly-sponsored conferences, seminar programs, visiting appointments and joint appointments are potential vehicles for achieving this.

Few groups in Canada take as broad a view of current events and problems as the Research Branch. A major strength is its ability to synthesize a diverse array of information into a comprehensible package for parliamentarians, to present complex issues in terms understandable to the nonspecialist. This interpretive function forms a critical link between the increasingly esoteric world of research and the legislative system. It can only become more necessary in the future.

Bureaucrats tend to value an organization by its complement of person-years and its annual budget. This is an inadequate framework for assessing the prospects of a parliamentary research service. The most valuable commodity in a research unit is the talent and experience

represented by its staff: quality should always outweigh quantity as a criterion in developing the service. And ranking with funding in determining the success of a research group is the vision and ingenuity with which it operates: how resources are managed will normally be at least as important as the absolute size of those resources. That management includes capitalizing upon the advantages offered by associating with other institutions. The Research Branch is a consulting service to Canada's Parliament. It will prosper according to the calibre of its staff and the quality of its management.

IFLA 1985

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO

Division: General Research Libraries

Section: PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES

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# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIBRARY, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE LIBRARY AND BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

by

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## Relationship between the European Parliament Library, the Council of Europe Library and between the national parliamentary libraries of the member states

Earlier papers at the Parliamentary Libraries Section open meetings this morning have discussed the relationship between the Federal Parliaments and the State, Provincial and Länder Libraries in Australia, Canada and the German Federal Republic respectively. This paper is concerned with the same type of relationship but on a wider stage, namely between the now directly elected European Parliament Library (and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) and the libraries of the national Parliaments of the ten soon to be twelve members of the European Communities in particular and member states of the Council of Europe in general. Included in this network are the relationships between the national Parliaments themselves.

The origin of the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation, the framework of this co-operation, is unusual as it was instituted at a meeting of Presiding Officers or Speakers of European Parliamentary Assemblies in Vienna in 1977. In addition to national Parliaments of the European Communities and of the Council of Europe being members, the Presidents of both the European Parliament and the Council of Europe themselves were charged with setting up and running the Centre.

The objectivesof the Centre, which was established at a time when the information and research staffs of Parliaments were growing ever busier and in some cases increasing their staff, are clearly set down in the Directory of the Centre (which is published annually). They are: 'to promote the exchange of information between parliaments, to prevent duplication of often costly research, and to establish close co-operation for documentation purposes between parliamentary libraries and research departments (This includes access to the European Community's data banks and to national data banks)'.

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The modest secretariat to run the Centre is provided by the European Parliament and is based on the Directorate-General for Research and Documentation (DG ) in Luxembourg. The Centre is run jointly by the Head of this European Parliament Directorate and the Head of the Table Office of the Council of Europe. This is known as the Centre's Steering Committee. On a nominal budget, the Centre keeps its members together through publishing an annual Directory, already mentioned, which lists important contacts in each Parliament. There is also a Newsletter published some four or five times a year. The latter not only lists general news of interest to members of the Centre but also research papers etc which have been prepared by the staff of the Parliaments, especially those in the library and research services and copies of which the latter are asked to send to the Centre. Other appropriate news of relevant meetings, publications and developments are noted. These simple arrangements work very effectively.

Each Secretary General or Clerk of a national Parliament nominates a Correspondent to the Centre. This is a Parliamentary staff member and in many cases the person nominated is from the library or research service. These Correspondents meet about once a year, to plan the general strategy of the Centre. They are also the official channel of communication between national Parliaments, including the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, and the national Parliament they represent. As they know their fellow Correspondents it is oftener quicker for these 'colleagues' to help each other rather than the enquirer trying to work out the appropriate specialist to contact from staff lists.

The more detailed work of the Centre is carried out by Working Parties to which Parliaments send their relevant specialist staff and these have covered the following areas:

Data processing and office automation

Library and information services
Microform
Study and Research

Thesaurus

Terminology

These Working Groups generally meet every year to eighteen months and the Library Working Group for instance has met in London (1979), Stockholm (1980), Brussels (1982), The Hague (1984), and Lisbon (1985). This particular Working Group has published "A Survey of parliamentary libraries, documentation and Information services' which is amended periodically and which gives a short but comprehensive account of the services offered by these libraries. It is available free in English, French and German from the European Parliament. As a result of other work of this Group, a number of staff exchanges between Parliamentary Libraries have taken place which has enriched the experience of both guest and host.

A Study and Research Working Group was formed at the institution of the Centre. Its original focus was concerned with parliamentary procedure and history. Soon its terms of reference were made broader and a system of sending copies of Research papers undertaken in the parliaments to the European Parliament meant that they could be listed in each issue of the European Centre's Newsletter. Arranged by subject under the heading Research and Documentation Studies these lists enable the staff of Parliaments to keep abreast of the work being undertaken by colleagues in other Parliaments. They cover the entire range of subjects that are of interest to legislators. This is equally important in the growing area of comparative studies as the different European countries are slowly drawn closer together not least through the pressure of common problems and common solutions. The work of the Centre is always practical

and in time it was found possible to wind up the Research Working Party and discussions of this aspect of co-operation now take place at the regular meetings of Correspondents.

Similarly there used to be a Microforms Working Party which assisted in the technical aspects of this means of storing information but the Libraries Working Group argued that it would be more efficient if microform were handled when necessary by the Libraries Working Group. They saw it as a normal aspect of Library routines not as a matter of technical expertise. After the June 1984 Luxembourg meeting of Correspondents, the Chairman of the Microforms Working Party wrote in the Centre's Newsletter:

> 'As I have already stressed, there are no grounds for the further existence of the Working Party in its current specific form. Developments in support systems are very rapid and it would be preferable to have a Working Group with wider terms of reference or to form an intergroup with the Working Group on Libraries and on Data-Processing'.

Such flexibility is to be applauded.

The Working Group on Data-Processing has existed since the earliest days of the Centre. It has examined the usual problems of standardisation, the use of EURONET, the distribution of spreading databases such as CELEX and CRONOS and the problems of the databases of national Parliaments being available to other Parliaments. For instance the House of Commons domestic system called POLIS is available in both the European Parliament and in the French Parliament and exchanges of staff have been organised to assist learning how to use the different systems. More recently Parliaments have

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been asked to prepare and exchange user manuals on their systems and these are due to be considered at a meeting to be held in Rome in the autumn of 1985.

In October 1984 a meeting of the Date-Processing Working Group was held in London. Attendance was very high and the subsequent report was considered by the Secretary Generals' meeting in Paris on 1 February 1985 and finally by the meeting of Presidents of the Parliaments also in Paris on 7-8 June 1985. The latter endorsed the report of the Working Party and this neatly illustrates the way in which Working Groups report to the Centre, the Centre to the Secretaries General and they in turn to the Presiding Officers.

There are two further Working Groups, one concerning a multi-lingual Thesaurus and one on Terminology. The Group on a Thesaurus is long-standing and active. It has concerned itself with the development and use of Eurovoc, a multi-lingual Thesaurus needed by the European Parliament and the Commission's Office for Official Publications. The project has been supervised so far by a steering committee including representatives from the Commission (its library and Directorate General XIII), the European Parliament library and the translation services of both the Commission and the Parliament. The compilation began in December 1981 and the first version was in French which was completed in 1983. It is divided into some 20 main areas, 149 microthesauri and 5,000 descriptors. The number of cross references varies between 2 and 5,000 depending on the language, because Eurovoc is now available in all European Community languages except Greek and the languages of the new member states, Portugal and Spain.

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At the second meeting of the Thesaurus Working Group held in Berne on 1 and 2 July 1985 it was assessed. Views of the Working Group fell into three main areas. Countries which were less advanced in the development of a Thesaurus, such as Greece, Spain and Portugal, considered it a very useful, indeed, important starting point for their own Thesaurus development. Some other countries which were already well developed in this regard, felt that Eurovoc was a little late in the day to be of great influence. But it was the view of the United Kingdom whose Thesaurus for POLIS was completed in 1979, that Eurovoc deserved the most careful consideration as a way of drawing together the work of national Parliaments. It was noticed that different subject areas differed in quality and Defence was a subject that the Working Group felt was not well handled. There was also general concern that without firm control the Thesaurus might become too large.

With regard to the future, a problem common to all cooperation was noted. How was it going to be possible to update and maintain the Thesaurus? It is difficult to see this being done without an independent editor who had clearly defined agreed powers to undertake his job and presently it is not at all clear how such a small unit is to be financed and where it should be based. But the role of an agreed Thesaurus in improving cooperation between European Parliaments is an obvious one and it is to be hoped that the project will receive all necessary help.

As already suggested Defence is a subject not so well handled by Eurovoc and a second area is the subject of Parliament. This led to the Thesaurus Working Group speculating whether it might work jointly in this

area with the most recently established Working Group on Terminology and this proposal is likely to be considered at the next meeting of Correspondents of the Centre with the steering committee which is due to take place in Madrid in November 1985.

The Working Group on Terminology is concerned with Parliamentary terms. The starting point is a comparative dictionary in German, English and French prepared in the Bundesrat, which is the Upper Chamber of the Parliament of the German Federal Republic in Bonn. The Working Group has met on two occasions but the variety of parliamentary practice added to the difference in languages makes the project a very difficult one. A start was made with a document surveying the Terminology of Committees but the report on the second meeting held on 29 April 1985 in Bonn suggests a qualified response to the Working Party's performance. It reads:

> "Both the Working Party and the Steering Committee of the Centre feel that the future of the Working Party should be reconsidered."

It will be seen from this outline of cooperation in Europe that the situation differs greatly from that of Federal States. In a Federal situation there is a homogeneity of culture, language and political system. There are also of course the administrative and policy tensions which naturally exist as between the national level of activity and the regional level. These tensions can and do present problems not least for parliamentary staff working at both levels. In most societies, questions of education, social services, transportation, support for industries, etc., etc., which occupy much of the time of legislators are seldom matters which can be solved or even addressed in a Federal state at only one level. Both levels of Parliament are, therefore, frequently involved.

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In Europe, and especially the area which includes the European Communities, each national Parliament has to respond to the externally based, integrating pressures of the European Commission and the Council of Ministers together with the views expressed in that other directly elected Parliament - the European Parliament. The rather simple method of keeping in touch which I have outlined in this paper is one way of parliamentary staff and, therefore, legislators being kept informed and it is an effective and unwasteful way of working. The structure is as follows:

Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of European Communities/ Council of Europe (final arbiter of policy)

Secretaries General of Parliaments of the European Communities/ Council of Europe (reports to Conference of Presidents)

European Centre of Parliamentary Research and Documentation (publisher of the Directory and Newsletter)

Steering Committee of ECPRD (watches policy on day-to-day basis and reports to the Secretaries General)

Correspondents and Steering Committee of the ECPRD (policy)

Working Parties of the ECPRD (examine problems and report to Steering Committee)

National Parliaments, European Parliament and Council of Europe (ask and answer specific enquiries; work through Correspondents and contribute research and papers to the Newsletter)

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Meetings of the Conference of Presidents are normally annual with Presidents of EC Parliaments coming together one year and those of the broader-based Council of Europe the next. The Secretaries General meet in advance and prepare for these meetings while the Correspondents and the Steering Committee of the Centre in turn prepare papers for the Secretaries General. Finally, Working Groups work to the Correspondents and the Steering Committee.

The system works on goodwill. No organisation has recruited extra staff to help run it and there is no clear "trade off" of one institution against another. Some national Parliaments need foreign information more than others and the European Parliament probably needs it most. What is certain, however, is that all Parliaments have learnt a great deal about each other and that this has happened despite the absorbing nature of working for a national Parliament. We should be grateful to the initiative shown by the Presiding Officers at their meeting in Vienna in 1977.

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# The Role of a Parliament Library in Documentation and Popularisation of its Parliament's History.

by

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1985

# THE ROLE OF A PARLIAMENT LIBRARY IN DOCUMENTATION AND POPULARISATION OF ITS PARLIAMENT'S HISTORY

## I

A library is an arranged and organized collection of books rendered asseccible to readers.

A parliament library is such a special collection which is created and organized to serve the Parliament and its members. What does "serve the Parliament" mean? Well, first of all this means to have at disposal a collection of books, publications and journals comprising a variety of the fields of knowledge from within which the Parliament/and laso its organs and individual members/ may derive the information necessary for its activities, particularly pertaining to legislation and control of the Government and State administration work.

But "to serve the Parliament" may also mean something more. It could include : accumulation and rendering available the knowledge about its Parliament as such, about parliamentarism, its theory and practice, about parliamental history, the methods of parliamentary activities, etc; the knowledge may comprise a continental or world scale, bu also - and probably mainly - the scale of one's own State, history of one's nation and country.

And this is probably being done in every, or almost every parliament library. It may be supposed that almost every parliamentary library puts before itself an objective to document the history of its parliament. Is it not seen

from the long shelves in almost each book store overloaded with volumes of shorthand reports from parliamentary sessions and with other parliamentary papers? These often date back to the early beginnings of the parliamentary history of a given country; and this is - at least in some cases - equivalent to a history of several hundred years of parliamentary activity.

One needs not mention that everywhere books and journals devoted to the history of each parliament are being collected. But, already here one may ask the question : should we be so restictive in our understanding of the notion of "bibliotheca" ? Should we strictly adhere to the etymology ? If "biblion" means just a "book", then should we conclude that a "biblitheca" - library should only be a collection of books ? The negative answer to this had already been given long ago by our inclusion of microfilms and microfiches, recorded magnetic tapes, and here and there even of videocassettes, into library stock.

One may obviously go further in broadening the scope of objects collected within a parliament library ; these could include paintings and drawings presenting parliamentary life, portraits of distinguished members of parliament, reliefs and commemorative medals and other objects relating to the history of a parliament. Besides pieces of art, the collection may also include other commemorative objects belonging to the parliamentary "ritual", sometimes minute keepsakes as e.g. the bell/or hammer or cane/ of the Speaker, an identity card of a member of parliament, or a public entry ticket; ranging to manuscripts - e.g. memoirs, notes, reports written by people working in the parliament, photographs of parliament buildings, the session room, members of parliament, films presenting the course of a session and other scences from parliamentary life, etc. Need it be added that such

understood, wide and so varying in kind, but always related with the parliament, objects shall give a more full picture of yesterday than a library in the traditional, precise meaning of the word ? This - after all incomplete, and only exemplifving - list enables us to draw a conclusion that if a parliament library is to document the history of its parliament, then it should collect not only the books, the publications and the journals, but almost e v e r y t h i n g what documents that history.

Now, another question emerges : should a parliament library collect all these above mentioned objects only, or should it also present its achievements, undertake steps to arouse interest of the public opinion, including the members of parliament,too, i.e. organize displays, exhibitions, museums ? Refer to the beginning of our considerations : the parliament library is to serve the parliament. Thus, it must also serve parliamentarism; this means that it should serve the cause of strengthening and developing parliamentary institutions, it should contribute to the dissemination of knowledge about the state's parliamentary history, consciousness of national parliamentary traditions, and also deepen the importance of parliamentary democracy institutions for further development of that given state. These presumptions point to a more wide look at these exhibiting tasks of parliament libraties. And another observation relating to this : in many capital cities of the world a long and live tradition of visiting and sightseeing parliaments : the halls and vestibules, plenary session rooms, commission session rooms, etc. exists; tourists come from home and abroad, pupils come from schools, for which an excursion to the parliament is one of the lessons in their knowledge about the State, voters come to meet their representatives, and other. It feels fully justified

to give them something more - not only using the words spoken by the guide, but also by showing material objects, particularly pieces of art pertaining to the history of parliament, its past and today, .. the glamours and shades of its history; and pointing to the conclusions for the future.

Decisions have been undertaken in the Polish People's Republic aiming to present the rich Polish parliamentary history within the Parliament buildings in the form of an organised museum exhibition; in consequence, the Parliament Library has been granted defined organizational tasks. Thus, this institution had become a significant link in the activities aiming to document and popularise the history of the Polish Parliament.

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This rich history of Polish parliamentarism begins about five hundred years ago, reaching in its origin - as emphasized by all researchers - to the last decades of the XV-th century. It was then that the institution of all-Poland general conventions of the nobility had been shaped into a more and more permanent component of the political system. These conventions had, in time, been given the old-Polish term the "SEJM"; and a "sejm" which had particularly broad competences had became known as the "Great Sejm"/lat. conventio magna or conventio solemna, and later also parlamentum/. These Sejms had dealt mainly with taxation issues, but also proceeded to other legislation, sometimes even discussing the questions of international agreements. In characterizing the genesis of the Polish parliamentarism, historians put particular attention to the importance of the Sejm of 1493, when the representative character of the Chamber of Deputies became so clear for the first time, becomming a convention of r e p r e s e n t a t i v e s of the nobility, elected by it at provincial conventions/sejmik/; it

was then for the first time that a clear distinction took place between the three elements constituting the Parliament of that epoch : the King, the Senate/consisting of the highest church and public dignitaries/ and the Chamber of Deputies. The year 1505 marks another milestone in the early history of the Polish Parliament. The King, Alexander Jagellon, hed before the general assembly stated that from that time on the King may now and forever not institute "nothing new" /lat. "nihil novi"/ in the general law and public freedoms without receiving the consent of the parliament. Once the representative character of the Polish Parliament had been established, this had become a new and important step to define - in a manner so close to the present-day understanding of this concept - the legislative competences of the parliament as an organ without which consent inadmissible is limitation of the rights and freedoms of individuals, as well as imposition of new legal duties. Not much later attempts were initiated to arrange and c o d i f y the whole legislation of that time.

We consider that presentation and recalling this, so significant, genesis of the Polish Sejm should become an important element of the envisaged expositions of the Parliament Library. First of all it is important to stress and emphasize that a democratic Parliament was for centuries the central political institution in Poland, closely interwound with the political culture initially of the gentry, and later of the whole nation; and that beginning with the XV-th century, Polish successes and growth were always related with the increase in importance of the Parliament, while crises and downfalls of the State usually lead to deterioration of parliamentary functions and loss of their authority; that the Parliament has always played an important part in the history of Poland as an element

of national integration, becomming the forum on which particularisms have way to the generally superior national and State interests; that parliamentary conflicts and battles finally shaped the cultural trait of Poles to tolerate different views, and a conviction about the possibilities and effectiveness of political means, i.e. of persuasion and convincing - over administrative enforcement - in the struggle to achieve the stipulated objectives.

Thus, history shows the Polish Parliament as having a long tradition, belonging to the oldest and having most significant achievements, parliaments of Europe and the world; from the end of medieval times up to today's projects of system reform, improvement of the Polish State, protection of its sovereignity and independence, enforcement of the rights and freedoms of citizens - all usually in Poland were connected with the Parliament and most often were implemented through the Parliament. Does all this not deserve commemoration in a museum type exposition, too ?

The end of the 18-th century : the historical 3-rd of May 1791. The Polish Sejm had just passed the first in Europe written C o n s t i t u t i o n, the first in its modern meaning Primary Law defining the principles of the political system of Poland/it was preceeded by the Constitution of the United States of America, but outpaced the oldest French Constitution of September 1791/. The Constitution was to become a legal foundation for progressive reforms aiming to raise the Polish State and economy from ruin. Unfortunately, this Law came too late and was not enforced with consecuence. This did not save Poland from loss of independence; the State was partitioned between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

The nineteenth century and eve of the twentieth century : over 150 years of unvielding struggle of the Polish Nation for national liberation and sovereignity. No social move-

ment, no political organization of that period existed not identifying itself with a vision of the future independent Poland, with a vision of the future, democratic Parliament. The episodic, quasi-parliamental organs of that time engrave in capital letters in Polish history; these include, i.a., the so called "Parliament of the Polish Kingdom" during the November Uprising/1829-1830/, which passes a bill depriving the Romanov dynasty of all its rights to the Polish throne.

November 1918 : independent Poland arises after one hundred and fifty years of thraldom. Elections to the first Parliament,which is to decide the political system and pass the Constitution of the newly created state, are carried out earlier than in any of the states emerging after the end of Worls War I and basing on the most consecent democratic election law. The two in-between war decades have a similar effect on development of Polish parliamentarism as in the other states of Middle Europe, with turning away from democracy to various forms of authoritative government. But, complete annihilation does not take place. The Sejm and the Senate meet for their last session on the 3-rd of September 1939 after the barbarous attack of Nazi Germany on Poland, and pass resolutions burning with hot patriotism. Not much later part of the Parliament buildings becomes transformed into SS barracks, and many books from the Library perish at the stake.

At last, July 1944 : a new situation on the international forum create in Poland conditions enabling the Polish people to enter the road to reforms, leading to construction of socialism as the system of fully realized social justice. The Parliament - initially known under the name Krajowa Rada Narodowa/National People's Council/, and next as the Sejm Polskiej Rzeczpospolitej Ludowej/Diet of the Polish People's Republic/ is to become now - in virtue of the 1952 Constitution provisions - the highest organ in the

State, the only legislative authority and the highest controlling organ for all other state institutions. The awaitings and hopes of the whole society once again are directted to the Parliament in all the difficult and, unrarely, dramatic social conflicts, not lacking in Poland in the last forty years. This means that the Parliament has won itself a permanent place in the consciousness of Poles as an institution inseparably related with the past and present of the Polish Nation.This also means that one cannot see the future of this nation without further development and strangthening of the position of the Parliament and other democratic institutions; this development being in fact the prerequisite for real progress in organizing the system of social justice in a sovereign and modern State.

III.

Activities for documenting and popularisation of the history of one's own Parliament may vary in range and form. The problem is less complicated when this history is short and modest. However, when a history of Parliament is long and eventful - this task complicates much. But, when the task is to organize, in fact a h i s t o r i c a l m u s e u m of that P a r l i a m e n t - it becomes evident that the organizational tasks far outreach the possibilities of a Parliament library alone.

Extensive efforts have been undertaken in the Polish People's Republic. The task was at all important - to popularise a rich, interesting and instructive history and to make it available to all the people. In result , Presidium of the Diet/the managerial organ of the Parliament, consisting of the President, holding the traditional title of a "marshall" and four vice-Presidents - "vice-marshalls"/ had passed a resolution to establish the Muzeum Sejmu

Polskiego/Museum of the Diet/. Of course that the Parliament Library should participate in this great task, but not less obviously, it could not participate alone. First of all, a Museum Organizing Committee was appointed, headed by on e of the distinguished Polish historians, professor of the University of Warsaw holding at the same time a seat in the Parliament and chairman of the parliamental Education and Science Commission; several historians, experts in Constitutional Law and museologists with the Director of the Parliament Library appointed as the Secretary, completed the Organizing Committee. This Committee has three tasks to fulfil : 1/ development of the concept of the future exposition, 2/ starting the collecting of exponates and 3/ ensuring the proper museum halls. Irrespectively of the not always favourable situation/imposition of martial law/, the Committee was able to attract a very wide circle of experts in many fields, particularly in historical and legal sciences, to develop the program assumptions. Four large scientific congresses had been organized in four universities, each devoted to one of the stages in the history of Polish parliamentarism. The lectures presented and proceedings have been separately published by the Parliament Library. Basing on these accomplishments, we were able to develop first detailed exposition scenarios . At the same time, various museums and archives were penetrated, and actions were undertaken to overtake certain museum pieces or archival materials, or copies of such objects were prepared for the future exposition; finally contributors appeared, including former Parliament members and families of deceased members bringing keepsakes, sometimes exceedingly interesting. The Museum shall be located in one of the old, XIX-th century buildings withing the parliamentary complex, already commissioned by the Presidium/see figure/; the total exposition area shall be about 1200 sq. m.

The Parliament Library had actively participated in all works aiming at creation of the Museum of the Diet. This work amounts to a certain experience which may be worth of exchange with others; it is an example of the role that a parliament library may play in documenting and popularizing the history of its parliament.

Ending, it would be good to give a defined date of the ceremonial opening of the Museum and invite the present at the IFLA Meeting in Chicago directors of other parliament libraries to this ceremony. Unfortunately, this is not yet possible. The main difficulty lies in the necessity to remove the present users from the Museum building and adapt it to its new role - this must take time. In the meantime, we shall be developing detailes of the scenario and collecting exponates.

Several cuestions ensue :

- is it at all necessary to propagate and popularise parliamentarism and democracy ?
- should organization of a museum of parliamentary history be one of the functions of a Parliament Library ?
- are there any similar parliament hsitory museums already existing in the world ?
- is there any possibility of cooperation between parliament libraries in various countries in matters here discussed : can some libraries render help to other/what help/ creating or wanting to create museum expositions ?

The building, in which the Museum shall be located in future.

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# LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF QUEBEC

# RELATIONSHIP AMONG CANADIAN LEGISLATIVE LIBRARIES

by Jacques PREMONT

Quebec, Canada

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# LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF QUEBEC
## Relationship among Canadian Legislative Libraries

It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation of our Chairman, Mr. Gude, to speak at this meeting of the Parliamentary libraries section on the subject of the relationship among the Legislative Libraries of Canada. Being the representative of the only French-language legislature of the North American community, I must admit that my approach can barely be different from that of any of my colleagues present. Although under the same parliamentary system we all share the same experience, concerns and interests, there are some differences that I will try to expand upon here today.

The relationship among Canadian Legislative Libraries has, through the years, been relatively good, and I would not hesitate to evaluate it as excellent since 1974 when the Association of Legislative Libraries was established with a view to institutionalizing a previously informal fraternity.

Just as IFLA fosters international co-operation among participating members, APLIC aims at the same result through the exchange of information supplied by each Member according to resources at his provincial or state level.

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Those who study the Canadian parliamentary system might be inclined to question Quebec as to its parliamentary status in relation to the rest of Canada.

Before 1760, year of the conquest by the British, Quebec or New France as it was then known, had no representative assembly. There was none in France at that time either, with the exception of the States General which were convened at the King's pleasure and which, in fact, were never convened between 1614 and 1789.

Being an absolute monarch, the King had the power to make laws (legislative power), to apply them (executive power) and to have them respected (judicial power).

While there were no representative assemblies in New France, such form of government did exist in most of the thirteen New England colonies which were to become a confederation in 1776 under the name of the United States of America.

In 1763, following the conquest of New France, King George III of England issued a proclamation providing the possibility of convening a general assembly.

However, it was not until 1792 that an assembly was called, thereby instituting representative government for the first time in New France or Lower Canada as it was later to be named. At the same time a Library for the House of Assembly was set up under the responsibility of the Clerk of the new House.

The Library of the Legislature or Parliament of Quebec claims therefore to be one of the oldest among parliamentary libraries in North America.

West of Lower Canada emerged a new Colony known as Upper Canada, which was later to become Ontario. Settled by the English, it too called for a new mode of assembly. In 1840 the Act of Union united Upper and Lower Canada into a single political entity that was to last until 1867.

One parliamentary library served that entire jurisdiction until Confederation in 1867 which gave to Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and, subsequently, to the other joining territories, a constitution of their own securing responsible government.

In fact, the Library of the National Assembly of Quebec does not differ in substance from those of the other provinces or the central Parliament in Ottawa.

Strange as it may seem, there are, however, some differences -differences based on language, culture and the legal system.

In its orientation and operation, the Library of the National Assembly of Quebec reflects the very nature of the people it serves, the great majority of whom are descendants of the French colonists who came to the New World during the 17th Century. While preserving the language of their ancestors,

the "Québécois" have developed a distinct culture which has distinguished them from their neighbours and partners and is reflected in their works and writings.

The legislation governing the people of Quebec is not only influenced by English Common Law but must take into account French Civil Law, the basic law of the land, which clearly attests the dual nature of the culture of the people.

Since its inception, the collection of the Library has had to reflect this unique and intricate duality, the significance of which may at times elude some observers.

Officially sanctioned by an Act of the Legislature of Quebec in 1884, the Legislative Library underwent progressive expansion under the new confederated regime of 1867. Likewise, each of the other provinces which joined Confederation between 1867 and 1949 developed their own Legislative Library.

For the majority of them, the Library of Parliament in Ottawa became the model.

In comparing the status and operations of the eleven Legislative or Parliamentary Libraries of Canada, one must consider the importance of each in terms of size, the Members it serves and the services they require.

Consequently, some libraries have adopted different methods and have developped varied priorities and approaches to help elected officials function effectively.

For instance, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta have thus so far followed Ottawa's example in providing their Members with Research Services. Their basic objective has been to give professional assistance to their legislators who, like many of their counterparts in other modern parliaments, are faced with the ever-increasing complexity of their tasks.

We can only think of the Library of Congress which, as we all know, has played a leading role in that regard and has doutless inspired many other Parliaments in the world.

A few statistics here may be useful for a better understanding of our Canadian legislative libraries.

The composition of each legislature commands a corresponding library budget and staff necessary to meet the various needs and provide increasing services.

For instance, the federal Parliament with 282 seats in the House of Commons and 104 in the Senate, carries a ten-million dollar budget and has 234 employees; Ontario with 125 seats has nearly three and a quarter million and a staff of 81; Quebec, 122 seats, a budget of three million and a staff of 88;

Alberta 79 seats, a budget of 1.1 million and a staff of 24, and so on...

It follows that some libraries must give greater attention to their operations and develop new programs and services.

Our legislative libraries can be said to compare favourably with those of many a central jurisdiction, for example, the Library of Parliament in Ottawa.

Despite smaller staffs, the legislative libraries of most Canadian provinces, except for one or two which have been sadly neglected, have developed a combined reference and research service to a fairly advanced level in some cases, and have shown some remarkable initiatives of the kind normally associated with much larger institutions.

The only problem encountered has been competing with services already provided directly to party caucuses through government funding. Although such has been the case in Quebec, in fairness, it should be stressed that the problem has not arisen in Ontario or Alberta, for instance, nor at the federal level.

Quebec, as one writer once said, is a very politically conscious society, and this probably accounts for the reason that for their information and research requirements Members prefer to rely on a staff identified with their own political persuasion rather than on an impartial service.

As a consequence of its rather slow expansion , Quebec's research service has not been the unqualified success that it normally should have been. Members of the National Assembly were found to prefer their own party research organizations. Fortunately, a changing trend has been noted, and we are confident that we should experience increased research demands in the future.

Last year's statistics have given some encouraging signs in that regard.

The Government's economic policies may also have been partly responsible for this reduced activity in Quebec.

The situation in Ontario and Alberta, for instance, appears far more encouraging. I understand that in those two jurisdictions, a satisfactory relationship with caucus research units has been achieved and, as a result, conflicts have been avoided.

Some of the libraries produce current bibliographies of the publications of their respective governments. Others participate in the Cataloguing in Publication (CIP) program administered by the National Library of Canada.

Quebec has been considering implementing such programs and services, in addition to a few innovations of its own.

Alike some other legislative libraries such as Ontario, New-Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Quebec has been the object of special studies with a view to adopting new rules and policies wherever necessary: the results have been generally positive. For example, a program of computerization of all its services should be completed by the end of 1986. The 1981 report of a study committee on access to public information, is another example. It recognized the library's special status and mentioned that it was one of Quebec's most precious institutions as a primary source of government and parliamentary information.

The National Assembly of Quebec has greatly benefited from recent improvements, even though we still have some way to go in ensuring our parliamentarians with complete, efficient and reliable services.

For some years now, I have been advocating networking and access to automated support systems for our legislative libraries.

It is relevant to point out that several of them are utilizing automated systems. The Library of Parliament (Ottawa) is involved in implementing DOBIS; Alberta is using CODOC for processing government publications; British Columbia and Quebec use ATLAS and Ontario operates its own support system GEAC.

I should have mentioned earlier that the Legislative or Parliamentary Libraries of Canada have been aware for quite some time of their common problems and goals. It was for that very reason that "The Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada" was created. APLIC has held biennial conferences ever since and has been successful in achieving some of its goals.

These objectives aimed

- to improve parliamentary library service in Canada;
- to foster communication among members in matters of mutual interest;
- to identify issues, points of view and areas requiring research and input from other parliamentary staff; and
- to encourge cooperation with associations having related interests.

Regarding the last objective, we had occasion to exchange views and information the year we met in Edmonton, Alberta at which time a representative of the National Conference of State Legislatures made a proposal for a U.S.-Canada Legislative Research Exchange.

Such a project, as I recall, entailed: (1) Canadian participation in NCL's Legislative Information System (LIS), a computerized system of sharing research and policy information, and (2) an annual workshop for U.S. and Canadian legislative research directors and librarians.

Although well received by all delegates at the time, the project has not yet been put into effect, but it is indicative of the kind of exchange we have experienced.

Our association, the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada, has become more active by taking initiatives in order to ensure effective cooperation between the provincial legislatures and the Federal Parliament. The exchange of information and documents has enabled each of us to place greater importance on our collection development, especially in the area of official publications.

Quebec, for its part, has a fairly complete collection of official documents pertaining not only to Quebec but also to the Federal Government and most of the other provinces. I would dare say that the same applies to the majority of our partners. We also carry official documents of most French and English-speaking countries of the Western hemisphere. Moreover, our library has served as depository of the publications of the U.S. Government Printing Office since approximately 1881.

We also meet each year during the Canadian Library Association Conference and we hold a general conference every two years. These contacts allow us to benefit from each other's experience and occasionally result in the formulation of common initiatives and the preparation of joint pilot projects.

For instance, during the past few years, the Reference Division in Quebec has been successful in using the method of profile

of interests. This method has helped to accommodate requests from Members of the Assembly and to provide a certain reorientation for our users. I believe that a similar approach has also been applied with positive results in other jurisdictions.

The process basically entails:

- meeting with Members to determine their areas of interest;
- sending each Member the documentation corresponding to his specific needs and interests;
- initiation of the Members to the many services provided by the library;
- forwarding bibliographic lists of subjects considered by the legislative committees.

Above all, it was the determination to make the library more efficient to the legislative branch that led to what I would call a policy of increasing our presence among parliamentarians.

There is also another factor worth mentioning here. A parliamentary government of the Westminster type such as we experience in Quebec, the other Canadian legislatures and the federal Parliament, tends to restrict legislative initiative and confines the development of state policy to the executive and the government technocracy. Elected representatives have little latitude when it comes to undertaking in-depth studies, individually or in parliamentary committee, of the broader questions regularly dealt with by Parliament. This situation, you well understand, has its repercussions on the library service which continues

nonetheless, to seek ways and means of taking root in the parliamentary milieu and encouraging Members to take advantage of its services.

Thus, on its own initiative, the library undertakes more and more studies on parliamentary law and legislative practices and procedures. I am very much in favour of this initiative; I think the legislative body can refer to pertinent information in the area of parliamentary reform for eventual constructive application. Comparative studies on procedural questions and subjects of interest to Parliament could lead to solutions and options on various aspects of the democratic operation of our institutions.

There is another form of activity which clearly accentuates the Library's special status. For several years our experts, almost all of whom have lengthy experience in public administration and, more specifically in parliamentary life, have actively cooperated with various departmental administrations of the National Assembly. This cooperation is not strictly limited to information and advice. The Library agrees to "lend" its researchers to delegations during conferences and other activities involving parliamentarians.

In the immediate future we would also like to see the Clerks and the Chairmen of our legislative committees enlist the services of our researchers on a permanent or at least a sessional basis, as is now the practice in Ottawa and at the Ontario Legislature. Although the committees regularly use our services, they have yet to approch our Research Branch for an actual loan or transfer of research personnel.

Under the present set-up, the Research Branch appears to be stagnating. Therefore, if the Federal and Ontario policy is adopted for Quebec, we will be required to increase our staff and areas of specialization, and thereby contribute to the expansion of our Research Branch.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the Library of the National Assembly has found the right way to assist a modern administration and parliament. Significant changes will undoubtedly take place in the area of documentary information, more precisely in the composition and use of data banks. New technology is revolutionizing our present view of communications. We can easily foresee human activity being dictated by the computer, subordinated to the computer, even controlled by the computer. Within a few years, "reading" a book, a report, a newspaper or a periodical, could simply mean looking at a small screen.

In Quebec, a Planning and Technological Development Branch has been operating within the technical and public services department since the autumn of 1983. Its responsibilities are to conduct various assessment and planning studies for the library administration and to oversee our collections of microdocuments, and the use of our equipment and data bases. It also advises library officials and members of the other administrative units of the National Assembly regarding new technologies.

During the past year, the Branch has evaluated our requirements in data processing and office automation. A report on the computerization of library services was submitted to the Director of the Library in January 1985 and was a follow-up to the master plan for the introduction of

data processing at the National Assembly. In addition, the Branch drafted proposals that were intended to reactivate the process of computerization of the library and legislative services in general.

In the area of telereference, the Planning and Technological Development Branch has concluded agreements with three data base servers namely: (1) the Office de la langue française (French Language Bureau) which disseminates the Quebec Terminology Bank;

(2) the National Library of Canada which gives access to its data-base retrieval module (DOBIS); and

(3) the Société québécoise d'information juridique (Quebec Legal Information Bureau), which disseminates the Revised Statutes and Regulations of Quebec.

In October 1984, the Branch introduced the ENVOY 100 system for electronic mailing which has reduced by almost one half the time required for inter-library loans.

Such changes have made it necessary to retrain personnel in data-base interrogation. To that end, the Branch was asked to train nineteen employees during the 1984-85 fiscal year by organizing introductory courses and in-service sessions, and by enrolling some of the persons involved in special programs at selected learning institutions.

A review of telereference statistics reveals that in 1984 our library carried out 534 searches requiring access to 717 data bases. These searches represent 151 hours of interrogation and a total expenditure of $11 240.85. The

cost of on-line searches averaged $15.26 compared with $38.32 in 1981. This saving is attributed to the installation of relatively inexpensive systems such as DOBIS and the improved performance of our specially trained staff.

At the beginning of 1984, the Branch also introduced a program for the microfilming of our important brochure collection comprising more than 10 000 titles. The Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions has shown an interest in mocrofilming our brochures printed before 1900, while the National Library of Quebec has offered to microfilm the rest of our original collection.

Finally, the Branch has acted as an adviser to the General Director of Legislative Services in the elaboration of a Master Plan for data processing at the National Assembly and, in that capacity, was called upon

- to attend meetings of the orientation comittee on data processing;
- to work closely with consultants from a specialized firm entrusted with conducting a study on the National Assembly's requirements in data processing and office automation;
- to supply logistical support for the prepration of information sessions designed to explain to Members and officials the possibilities for compuerization at the National Assembly;
- to prepare a study for the orientation comittee on the process of computerization at other Legislatures;

- to visit and evaluate the computer installations and office systems in operation at the Parliament in Ottawa (Project OASIS);
- to take part in a seminar on the use of data processing in American Legislatures, which was held during the National Conference of State Legislatures (Boston, July 22-23, 1984).

In addition, the director of the Branch has worked together with a consultant in charge of a study on a major reorganization of the library.

We have also noted that parliamentary libraries "borrow" each other's works through the distribution of most of their own publications on an exchange basis.

Another good example comes from the Library of Parliament and that of the Legislature of Ontario. Both libraries have exercised a certain leadership in making available to Members:

- Memoranda and press releases;
- Selected new titles;
- Press highlights;
- State of Bills reports;
- Research reviews;
- Backgrond papers... and so forth.

Quebec has, for its part, initiated the daily publication of a Press Review called "Argus". Ottawa has followed suit with its own "Quorum". Both have been well received by Members.

We hope to complete and make operational a computer network to facilitate a better knowledge of each other's collections. We could also gain by coordinating our policies for the development of collections. Finally, staff exchanges would most certainly advance our good relations.

By comparing the Canadian Legislative Libraries network with those of the United States, the United Kingdom or Australia and New Zealand we come to the conclusion that research is at the core of what differentiates them from traditional libraries.

In the fulfilment of their tasks and duties, Members of Parliament need the support of a highly qualified staff.

In addition to the traditional reference services of any library, the legislative library procures expertise in a wide range of other disciplines.

The Librarian of Westminster, David Menhennet once said that one of the factors which sets the parliamentary library apart from other libraries was the increased demand for specialized staff to assist Members of Parliament.

And lastly, my immediate western colleague from Ontario, Brian Land, who has brilliantly implemented a report presented by the Parliamentary Librarian in Canada, Erik Spicer, who had been requested to evaluate the Legislative Library of Ontario has proudly reorganized the library so as to develop and improve the services available to the Members.

I personally believe that Ontario is a good example to follow and we, in Quebec, have watched its progress with great interest. Of course, Mr. Land is in a better position to relate this experience.

Although the legislative or parliamentary libraries of Canada may not have much to envy those of other jurisdictions, they always stand to gain from the experience of others.

The needs of our legislators compare with those of other Parliaments and whether it be at the national or provincial level, will always call for improvements and better services.

It is for us a challenge that we must constantly bear in mind. To do otherwise would be to betray our constituents.

Jacques Prémont

Chicago, August 1985.